



For immediate release  
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### **Rapid Response Team activated to aid American Airlines employees**

ST. LOUIS -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated to aid workers that were displaced by layoffs at American Airlines in the St. Louis area, resulting from the devastating acts of terrorism that occurred more than a month ago on the East Coast.

The Rapid Response Team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's (DED) Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' (DOLIR) Division of Employment Security, the St. Louis County Department of Human Resources Services/Workforce Development Division St. Louis Community College Employment and Training Center, and the St. Louis Agency for Training and Employment (SLATE). The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost or will lose their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Following the devastating events of September 11, lagging consumer confidence has resulted in large business declines in the airline travel industry. As a result, American Airlines laid off 47 transport workers Oct. 12.

"The shocking and tragic events of Sept. 11 have shaken consumer confidence, particularly in the airline and airline-related industries," said DED Director Joseph L. Driskill. "So far hundreds of airline-industry employees in Missouri have been affected by the airline companies' decisions to downsize in an attempt to stay economically viable. The state is well prepared to respond to the needs of our citizens and will do everything in our power to help these individuals find new employment opportunities."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD, Employment Security, SLATE and the St. Louis County Department of Human Resource Services/Workforce Development Division St. Louis Community College Employment and Training Center are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services.

A meeting will be held for any American Airlines worker that has been laid off at 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15, at the Missouri Career Center located at 26 B North Oaks Plaza in St. Louis to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Division of Employment Security is prepared to quickly process unemployment claims filed by individual workers. Unemployed workers can file unemployment claims using the Internet at [www.ui.dolir.state.mo.us](http://www.ui.dolir.state.mo.us) at any time of the day. Individuals may file claims by telephone during working hours at 314-340-4950 or 1-800-320-2519 if outside the St. Louis area.

Employers interested in hiring American Airlines' workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Any airline-industry worker that has been laid-off and is interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can call **DWD at 1-800-877-8698**. **Dislocated St. Louis City residents may call Ray Jackson at 314/589-8000**. **Dislocated St. Louis County residents may call Cindi Layman at 314/644-9032**.